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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/383,924	08/26/1999	JUNICHI MORI	35.C13749	7190

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EXAMINER

TRAN, DOUGLAS Q

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2624

DATE MAILED: 01/29/2004

12

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/383,924

Applicant(s)

MORI, JUNICHI

Examiner

Douglas Q. Tran

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Request For Continued Examination

1. The request filed on 12/05/03 for a Request For Continued Examination (RCE) Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114, based on the Application Serial No. 09/383,924. An action on the RCE follows.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Nishiwaki (US Patent No. RE37,031 E) and Mandel (US Patent No. 5,435,544).

As to claim 1, Nishiwaki teaches a printing system in which a host device (2 in fig. 1) and a printer (6 in fig. 1) are connected via a communication medium and a print job produced in the host device is transferred to the printer to execute printing, comprising:

Memory means (i.e., RAM) in which paper output place information (ID of selected bin 123) on the paper output place (bin 123) used in the print job is registered (col. 5, lines 65-67 and steps of S3 and S5; note: the print job is assigned with personal ID number to ID of selected bin 123, col. 6, line 47 and 57);

Retrieval means (i.e., 101 in fig. 2) for retrieving paper output place information on a designated print job from the memory means; and

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Information means (i.e., 102 in fig. 2) for informing the paper output place information on the designated print job obtained in retrieving step, to the user, in response to issue of the request in the step of issuing the request (col. 5, line 66 to col. 6, line 6 and lines 58-59; from information in RAM 106, the information is retrieved and informed to the host device),

requisition means for requesting the status of locks and bins (in fig. 6, the printer unit send inquiry signal to mailbox unit and receiving status of locks and bins), wherein the information means enables to inhibit informing the user of the paper output place information when a request is not issued by the requisition means (It is noted that the printer informs to the user when the bin is selected by the user on the requested print job “col. 6, lines 3-6 and 57-63”. In the case of the shared bin “col. 5, lines 57-58, col. 8, lines 22-28”, the user is not informed from the printer because the user already knows his completed print job located in the shared (or default) bin and his generated print job does not issue the selected bin);

Although Nishiwaki teaches requisition means for requesting the status of locks and bins (in fig. 6, the printer unit send inquiry signal to mailbox unit and receiving status of locks and bins), Nishiwaki does not teach requisition means for issuing a request for paper output place information for enabling a user to specify a paper output place to be used in a designated print job, according to an instruction from the user.

Mandel teaches requisition means for issuing a request for paper output place information for enabling a user to specify a paper output place to be used in a designated print job, according to an instruction from the user (col. 28, lines 57-63: User Interface requisites for displaying the bins information for enabling a user to specify a bin to be used in designated job with the user name according to an instruction from the user).

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It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the printing system of Nishiwaki for issuing a request for paper output place information for enabling a user to specify a paper output place to be used in a designated print job, according to an instruction from the user as taught by Mandel. The suggestion for modifying the printing system of Nishiwaki can be reasoned by one of ordinary skill in the art as set forth above by Mandel because the modified printer of Nishiwaki would increase the efficiency of the printer for accepting the assigned bin from the user's print job. The resultant system would have ability to perform either accepting the assigned bin from the user's print job or assigning bin for the user's print job.

As to claim 2, Nishiwaki teaches detection means for detecting papers stacked on the paper output place of the printer, and elimination means for eliminating information on the print job having used the corresponding paper output place from the memory means when the detection means detects that papers have been removed from the paper output place (in step of S1 in fig. 5 and col. 7, lines 31-37 describes that the data in table shows the bin is available when the bin contains no the printouts).

As to claim 3, Nishiwaki teaches the memory means or retrieval means is provided in the printer (col. 5, line 66 to col. 6, line 2).

As to claim 4, Nishiwaki teaches the memory means or retrieval means is provided in the host device (col. 3, lines 49-50 describes that the user who can select the bin at the his computer. That means the storage process of the storage unit specifying information is in the host device and is performed by host).

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As to claim 5, Nishiwaki teaches a method for controlling a printing system in which a host device (2 in fig. 1) and a printer (6 in fig. 1) are connected via a communication medium and a print job produced in the host device is transferred to the printer to execute printing, comprising:

registering paper output place information (ID of selected bin 123) on the paper output place (bin 123) used in the print job in memory (col. 5, lines 65-67 and steps of S3 and S5; note: the print job is assigned with personal ID number to ID of selected bin 123, col. 6, line 47 and 57);

retrieving paper output place information on a designated print job from the memory means; and informing of the paper output place information on the designated print job obtained by the retrieval (col. 5, line 66 to col. 6, line 6 and lines 58-59; from information in RAM 106, the information is retrieved and informed to the host device).

requesting the status of locks and bins (in fig. 6, the printer unit send inquiry signal to mailbox unit and receiving status of locks and bins), wherein the information means enables to inhibit informing the user of the paper output place information when a request is not issued by the requisition means (It is noted that the printer informs to the user when the bin is selected by the user on the requested print job "col. 6, lines 3-6 and 57-63". In the case of the shared bin "col. 5, lines 57-58, col. 8, lines 22-28", the user is not informed from the printer because the user already knows his completed print job located in the shared (or default) bin and his generated print job does not issue the selected bin).

Although Nishiwaki teaches of requesting the status of locks and bins (in fig. 6, the printer unit send inquiry signal to mailbox unit and receiving status of locks and bins), Nishiwaki

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does not teach of request for paper output place information for enabling a user to specify a paper output place to be used in a designated print job, according to an instruction from the user.

Mandel teaches of requesting for paper output place information for enabling a user to specify a paper output place to be used in a designated print job, according to an instruction from the user (in fig. 6 indicates the step of “does the user have a pre-assigned bin for this Mailbox/Fin.”; and step of “ will the new job fit entirely into this bin” and then step of “ Assign all sets to the user’s pre-assigned bin”).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the printing system of Nishiwaki for issuing a request for paper output place information for enabling a user to specify a paper output place to be used in a designated print job, according to an instruction from the user as taught by Mandel. The suggestion for modifying the printing system of Nishiwaki can be reasoned by one of ordinary skill in the art as set forth above by Mandel because the modified printer of Nishiwaki would increase the efficiency of the printer for accepting the assigned bin from the user’s print job. The resultant system would have ability to perform either accepting the assigned bin from the user’s print job or assigning bin for the user’s print job.

As to claim 6, Nishiwaki teaches detecting papers stacked on the paper output place of the printer, and elimination means for eliminating information on the print job having used the corresponding paper output place from the memory means when the detection means detects that papers have been removed from the paper output place (in step of S1 in fig. 5 and col. 7, lines 31-37 describes that the data in table shows the bin is available when the bin contains no the printouts).

As to claim 7, Nishiwaki teaches the registration step or retrieval step is provided in the printer (col. 5, line 66 to col. 6, line 2).

As to claim 8, Nishiwaki teaches the registration step or retrieval step is provided in the host device (col. 6, line 3).

As to claims 9, Nishiwaki teaches the memory medium ROM (104 in fig. 2) which stores the program for a printing system in which a host device (2 in fig. 1) and a printer (6 in fig. 1) are connected via a communication medium and a print job produced in the host device is transferred to the printer to execute printing, comprising:

registering paper output place information (ID of selected bin 123) on the paper output place (bin 123) used in the print job in memory (col. 5, lines 65-67 and steps of S3 and S5; note: the print job is assigned with personal ID number to ID of selected bin 123, col. 6, line 47 and 57);

retrieving paper output place information on a designated print job from the memory means; and informing of the paper output place information on the designated print job obtained by the retrieval (col. 5, line 66 to col. 6, line 6 and lines 58-59; from information in RAM 106, the information is retrieved and informed to the host device).

requesting the status of locks and bins (in fig. 6, the printer unit send inquiry signal to mailbox unit and receiving status of locks and bins), wherein the information means enables to inhibit informing the user of the paper output place information when a request is not issued by the requisition means (It is noted that the printer informs to the user when the bin is selected by the user on the requested print job “col. 6, lines 3-6 and 57-63”. In the case of the shared bin “col. 5, lines 57-58, col. 8, lines 22-28”, the user is not informed from the printer because the

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user already knows his completed print job located in the shared (or default) bin and his generated print job does not issue the selected bin);

Although Nishiwaki teaches of requesting the status of locks and bins (in fig. 6, the printer unit send inquiry signal to mailbox unit and receiving status of locks and bins), Nishiwaki does not teach requisition means for issuing a request for paper output place information for enabling a user to specify a paper output place to be used in a designated print job, according to an instruction from the user.

Mandel teaches of requesting for paper output place information for enabling a user to specify a paper output place to be used in a designated print job, according to an instruction from the user (in fig. 6 indicates the step of “does the user have a pre-assigned bin for this Mailbox/Fin.”; and step of “ will the new job fit entirely into this bin” and then step of “ Assign all sets to the user’s pre-assigned bin”).

As to claim 10, Nishiwaki teaches detecting papers stacked on the paper output place of the printer, and elimination means for eliminating information on the print job having used the corresponding paper output place from the memory means when the detection means detects that papers have been removed from the paper output place (in step of S1 in fig. 5 and col. 7, lines 31-37 describes that the data in table shows the bin is available when the bin contains no the printouts).

As to claim 11, Nishiwaki teaches the registration step or retrieval step is provided in the printer (col. 5, line 66 to col. 6, line 2).

As to claim 12, Nishiwaki teaches the registration step or retrieval step is provided in the host device (col. 6, line 3).

As to claim 13, Nishiwaki teaches a method for controlling a printing system which includes a printer having a print unit for performing a print process on a print job and plural sheet storage units, the method comprising:

requesting the status of locks and bins (in fig. 6, the printer unit send inquiry signal to mailbox unit and receiving status of locks and bins),

a notification step, of notifying the user of the storage unit specifying information (ID of selected bin 123) corresponding to the designated print job, in response to the issuance of the request in the request step (col. 5, lines 65-67 and steps of S3 and S5; note: the print job is assigned with personal ID number to ID of selected bin 123, col. 6, line 47 and 57; col. 5, line 66 to col. 6, line 6 and lines 58-59; from information in RAM 106, the information is retrieved and informed to the host device),

wherein the information step includes enabling inhibition of informing the user of the storage unit specifying information corresponding to the designated print job when a request is not issued by the requisition means (It is noted that the printer informs to the user when the bin is selected by the user on the requested print job “col. 6, lines 3-6 and 57-63”. In the case of the shared bin “col. 5, lines 57-58, col. 8, lines 22-28”, the user is not informed from the printer because the user already knows his completed print job located in the shared (or default) bin and his generated print job does not issue the selected bin).

Although Nishiwaki teaches of requesting the status of locks and bins (in fig. 6, the printer unit send inquiry signal to mailbox unit and receiving status of locks and bins), Nishiwaki does not teach of requesting for paper output place information for enabling a user to specify a paper output place to be used in a designated print job, according to an instruction from the user.

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Mandel teaches of requesting for paper output place information for enabling a user to specify a paper output place to be used in a designated print job, according to an instruction from the user (in fig. 6 indicates the step of “does the user have a pre-assigned bin for this Mailbox/Fin.”; and step of “ will the new job fit entirely into this bin” and then step of “ Assign all sets to the user’s pre-assigned bin”).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the printing system of Nishiwaki for issuing a request for paper output place information for enabling a user to specify a paper output place to be used in a designated print job, according to an instruction from the user as taught by Mandel. The suggestion for modifying the printing system of Nishiwaki can be reasoned by one of ordinary skill in the art as set forth above by Mandel because the modified printer of Nishiwaki would increase the efficiency of the printer for accepting the assigned bin from the user’s print job. The resultant system would have ability to perform either accepting the assigned bin from the user’s print job or assigning bin for the user’s print job.

As to claim 14, Nishiwaki teaches a storage step, of storing, in a memory unit, the storage unit specifying information (bin 123) of each print job capable of performing management concerning which print job uses which sheet storage unit (col. 5, lines 65-67 and steps of S3 and S5; note: the print job is assigned with personal ID number to ID of selected bin 123, col. 6, line 47 and 57), and informing of the paper output place information on the designated print job obtained by the retrieval (col. 5, line 66 to col. 6, line 6 and lines 58-59; from information in RAM 106, the information is retrieved and informed to the host device).

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As to claim 15, Nishiwaki teaches the memory means or retrieval means is provided in the printer (col. 5, line 66 to col. 6, line 2).

As to claim 16, Nishiwaki teaches the storage process of the storage unit specifying information in the storage step is performed by a host device capable of transmitting a print job to the printer (col. 3, lines 49-50 describes that the user who can select the bin at the his computer. That means the storage process of the storage unit specifying information is in the host device and is performed by host).

As to claim 17, Nishiwaki teaches the issue of the request of the storage unit specifying information in the request step is performed by a host capable of communicating with the printer (col. 3, lines 48-49 and col. 6, lines 3-6).

As to claim 18, Nishiwaki teaches execution of the request causes at least any of plural units including an application unit, a utility unit, a printer driver unit and an interface driver unit of the host device to generate inquiry data based on the request (It is noted that since the user generates the print job including the selected bin "col. 3, lines 48-49", there inherently is a component corresponding to at least any of plural units including an application unit or a printer driver at the host device to generate inquiry data based on the request).

As to claim 19, Nishiwaki teaches the inquiry data is composed of plural data including command data for instructing an inquiry concerning the storage unit and job data for specifying the job (col. 3, lines 35-38 and 48-49).

As to claim 20, Mandel teaches the notifying step includes notifying a user of the host of the storage unit specifying information, by causing a display unit of the host device to display the

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storage unit specifying information in response to the issuance of the request through the host device in the request step (col. 28, lines 57-63).

As to claim 21, Nishiwaki teaches the issuance of the request of the storage unit specifying information in the request step can be performed through another device, different from the host device (it is noted that a plurality of the host devices connects in the network with the printer “fig. 1”, thus, any of the host devices can request the status of the print job from that printer).

As to claim 22, Nishiwaki teaches the notifying step includes notifying a user of the another device of the storage unit specifying information, by causing a displaying unit of the another device to display the storage unit specifying information in response to the issuance of the request through the another device in the request step (fig. 1 indicates that the printer, the host device and the another device may mutually communicate through a network. Thus, a displaying unit of the another device to display the storage unit specifying information in response to the issuance of the request through the another device in the request step).

As to claim 23, Nishiwaki teaches the printer, the host device and another device may mutually communicate through a network (please see fig. 1).

As to claim 24, Nishiwaki the request step includes issuing the request of the storage unit specifying information for enabling the user to specify the sheet storage unit used for the designated print job, designated based on the user’s operation, from among the plural sheet storage units of the plural printers including the printer and another printer, according to the instruction from the user (col. 3, lines 47-49), and

the notification step includes notifying the user of the storage unit specifying information for enabling the user to specify the sheet storage unit used for the designated print job from among the plural storage units of the plural printers including the printer and the another printer, according to the issue of the request in the request step (col. 3, lines 49-52).

As to claim 25, Nishiwaki the notifying step includes notifying the user of the storage unit specifying information according to the issuance of the request in the request step, within at least a period from print completion of the designated print job to removal completion of the sheet for the designated print job from the sheet storage unit (please see step of S3, S6 and S8).

As to claim 26, Nishiwaki teaches a printing system which includes a printer having a print unit for performing a print process on a print job and plural sheet storage units, comprising:

request means for requesting the status of locks and bins (in fig. 6, the printer unit send inquiry signal to mailbox unit and receiving status of locks and bins),

notifying means for notifying the user of the storage unit specifying information (ID of selected bin 123) corresponding to the designated print job, in response to the issuance of the request in the request step (col. 5, lines 65-67 and steps of S3 and S5; note: the print job is assigned with personal ID number to ID of selected bin 123, col. 6, line 47 and 57; col. 5, line 66 to col. 6, line 6 and lines 58-59; from information in RAM 106, the information is retrieved and informed to the host device),

wherein the information step includes enabling inhibition of informing the user of the storage unit specifying information corresponding to the designated print job when a request is not issued by the requisition means (It is noted that the printer informs to the user when the bin is selected by the user on the requested print job "col. 6, lines 3-6 and 57-63". In the case of the

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shared bin “col. 5, lines 57-58, col. 8, lines 22-28”, the user is not informed from the printer because the user already knows his completed print job located in the shared (or default) bin and his generated print job does not issue the selected bin).

Although Nishiwaki teaches of requesting the status of locks and bins (in fig. 6, the printer unit send inquiry signal to mailbox unit and receiving status of locks and bins), Nishiwaki does not teach of requesting for paper output place information for enabling a user to specify a paper output place to be used in a designated print job, according to an instruction from the user.

Mandel teaches of requesting for paper output place information for enabling a user to specify a paper output place to be used in a designated print job, according to an instruction from the user (in fig. 6 indicates the step of “does the user have a pre-assigned bin for this Mailbox/Fin.”; and step of “ will the new job fit entirely into this bin” and then step of “ Assign all sets to the user’s pre-assigned bin”).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the printing system of Nishiwaki for issuing a request for paper output place information for enabling a user to specify a paper output place to be used in a designated print job, according to an instruction from the user as taught by Mandel. The suggestion for modifying the printing system of Nishiwaki can be reasoned by one of ordinary skill in the art as set forth above by Mandel because the modified printer of Nishiwaki would increase the efficiency of the printer for accepting the assigned bin from the user’s print job. The resultant system would have ability to perform either accepting the assigned bin from the user’s print job or assigning bin for the user’s print job.

As to claim 27, due to the similarity of this claim to that of claim 1, this claim is rejected as the reasons applied to claim 13.

Response to Arguments and Amendment

Applicant's arguments filed 12/5/03 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. This action is made **non-final**.

The new limitations from the amended claims: "wherein the information means enables to inhibit informing the user of the paper output place information when a request is not issued by the requisition means". However, the teaching of Nishiwaki overcomes the above limitations by teaching that the printer informs to the user when the bin is selected by the user on the requested print job "col. 6, lines 3-6 and 57-63". In the case of the shared bin "col. 5, lines 57-58, col. 8, lines 22-28", the user is not informed from the printer because the user already knows his completed print job located in the shared (or default) bin and his generated print job does not issue the selected bin).

Applicant argued that nothing has been found in Nishiwaki that teaches or suggests requisition means issuing a request of paper output place information, enabling to specify a paper output place used in a designated print job, according to an instruction by the user, and information means informing the user of paper output place information on the designated print job, obtained by the retrieval means, in response to the request by the requisition means, as recited in claim 1. However, Nishiwaki teaches a printing system in which a host device (2 in fig. 1) and a printer (6 in fig. 1) are connected via a communication medium and a print job produced in the host device is transferred to the printer to execute printing, comprising: Memory means (i.e., RAM) in which paper output place information (ID of selected bin 123) on the paper output

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place (bin 123) used in the print job is registered (col. 5, lines 65-67 and steps of S3 and S5; note: the print job is assigned with personal ID number to ID of selected bin 123, col. 6, line 47 and 57); Retrieval means (i.e., 101 in fig. 2) for retrieving paper output place information on a designated print job from the memory means; and Information means (i.e., 102 in fig. 2) for informing the paper output place information on the designated print job obtained in retrieving step, to the user, in response to issue of the request in the step of issuing the request (col. 5, line 66 to col. 6, line 6 and lines 58-59; from information in RAM 106, the information is retrieved and informed to the host device); requisition means for requesting the status of locks and bins (in fig. 6, the printer unit send inquiry signal to mailbox unit and receiving status of locks and bins).

However, Nishiwaki does not teach requisition means for issuing a request for paper output place information for enabling a user to specify a paper output place to be used in a designated print job, according to an instruction from the user.

Mandel teaches requisition means for issuing a request for paper output place information for enabling a user to specify a paper output place to be used in a designated print job, according to an instruction from the user (in fig. 6 indicates the step of "does the user have a pre-assigned bin for this Mailbox/Fin."; and step of " will the new job fit entirely into this bin" and then step of " Assign all sets to the user's pre-assigned bin").

Therefore, the suggestion for modifying the printing system of Nishiwaki can be reasoned by one of ordinary skill in the art as set forth above by Mandel because the modified printer of Nishiwaki would increase the efficiency of the printer for accepting the assigned bin from the user's print job. The resultant system would have ability to perform either accepting the assigned bin from the user's print job or assigning bin for the user's print job.

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Applicant argued that Nishiwaki transmits ID information, not requested or desired by the user, to the host, increasing needless data being exchanged in the printing system. This additional communication traffic decreases the efficiency and productivity of the entire printing system.” In reply, Mandel in combination with Nishiwaki teaches requisition means for issuing a request for paper output place information for enabling a user to specify a paper output place to be used in a designated print job, according to an instruction from the user (in fig. 6 indicates the step of “does the user have a pre-assigned bin for this Mailbox/Fin.”; and step of “ will the new job fit entirely into this bin” and then step of “ Assign all sets to the user’s pre-assigned bin”).

Therefore, the suggestion for modifying the printing system of Nishiwaki can be reasoned by one of ordinary skill in the art as set forth above by Mandel because the modified printer of Nishiwaki would increase the efficiency of the printer for accepting the assigned bin from the user’s print job. The resultant system would have ability to perform either accepting the assigned bin from the user’s print job or assigning bin for the user’s print job.

Furthermore, Mandel (US Patent No. 5,823,529) discloses the status of mailbox bins is full or almost full and tell user to select other bins.

For the above reasons, it is believed that the cited prior art fully discloses the claimed invention and the rejection stand.

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Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Douglas Q. Tran whose telephone number is (703) 305-4857 or E-mail address is Douglas.tran@uspto.gov.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

Douglas Q. Tran

Jan. 25, 2004

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tran Douglas", with a long horizontal line extending from the top of the first letter.